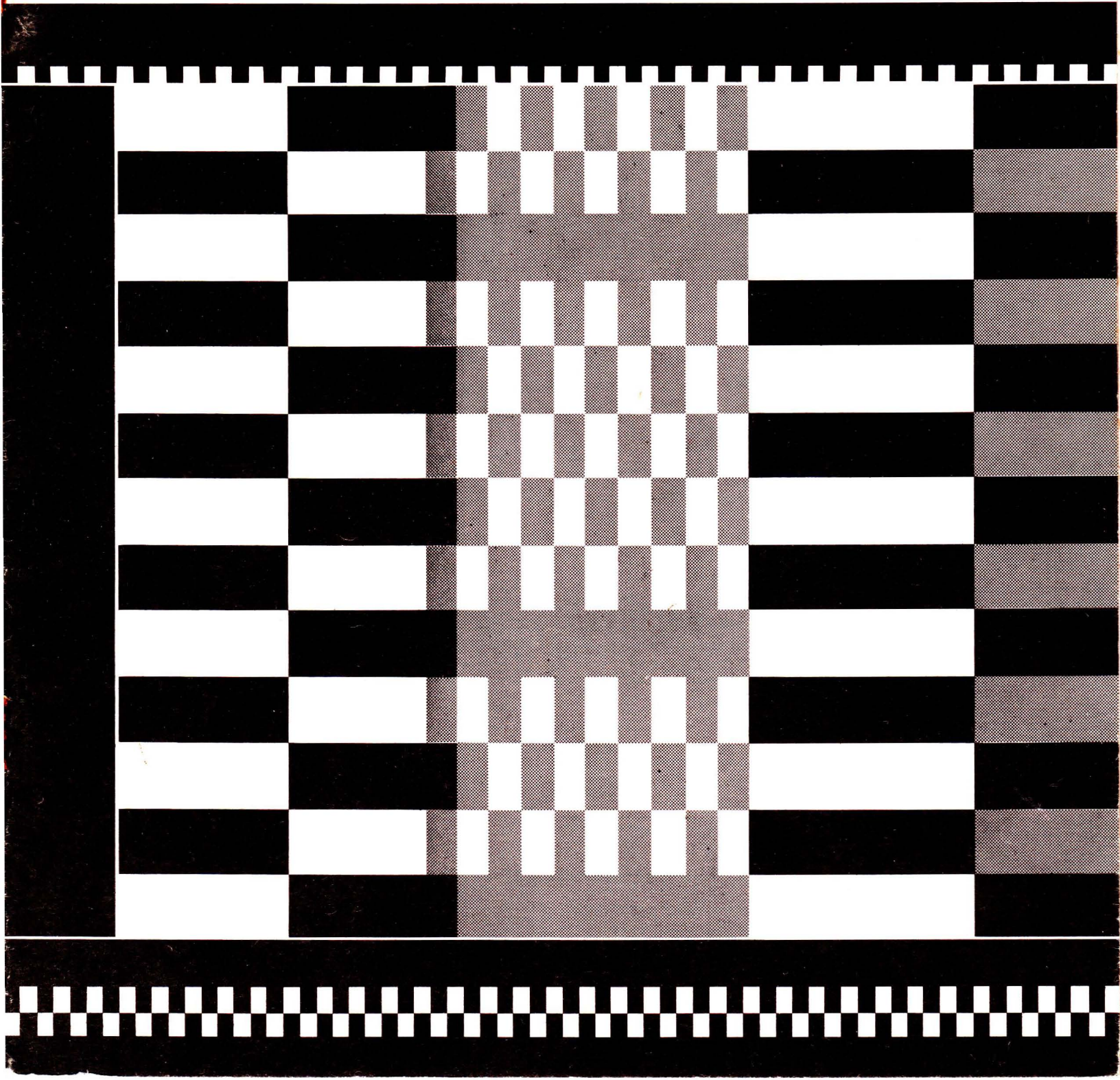


ZIPPERS



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Thanks are due to Mrs. Helene Horimoto for her cooperation in serving as the model for the photographs, as well as for her secretarial assistance. The professional cooperation in photography by Masaru Miyamoto of the Office of University Relations and Development is also acknowledged.

ZIPPERS

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Zippers are being used in a large majority of our garments today. Various types of zippers are on the market and one needs to select the kind that is most suitable for the garment.

The coil zipper is thinner and is good to use in your synthetic garments and especially with the wash and wears, because hot iron will not come in contact with the zipper. If you are making a garment that is going to be ironed or pressed with a hot iron, it would be preferable to select a metal zipper or a coil zipper with tape backing.

In selecting the length of the zipper, check your pattern, since most will give you the desired length; but you must consider if you will need just a little longer zipper in the back of a garment if you plan to step into and out of it. Some times a 22-inch zipper is not quite long enough and yet a 24-inch zipper is too long. Put in a 24-inch zipper and simply let the extra 1 inch of the zipper remain unnoticed and unstitched from the outside.

The following gives directions on inserting a zipper in the back of a dress, on the side seams, or anywhere a lapped seam may be used.



FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2

APPLICATION OF ZIPPER

The center application is suggested on a number of patterns, but one may use the lapped application which is much more satisfactory and looks better because the zipper is less conspicuous. In the center application it is very difficult or next to impossible to have a garment stitched and not have the metal or coil part of the zipper showing. Because the lapped application can be used in more places, we will go into more detail on this. However, some of the techniques can be used in the center application, especially in the first steps.

When a garment is ready for the zipper, the bottom part of the seam should be back-stitched so that it will not open up at any time. See FIGURE 1 at pin. From the back stitching, machine baste on the center seam line or what may be called the fitted line. After the garment is basted is an ideal time to give the seam the best pressing job possible. At this time you can give a more clean cut line on the zipper than after the zipper is inserted.

The fabrics of today need special handling to keep the zipper from having a puckered

look when finished. One of the ways to make a flat zipper would be to pin the zipper to the seam line starting at the top and let the zipper be slightly rounding over the seam lines of the fabric as you pin it all the way down to the bottom of the zipper. See FIGURE 2. By handling the zipper this way, you will allow a little more zipper to the material than if the zipper was placed flat on the material.

Two methods are suggested for attaching the zipper to the material in the first line of stitching: One is as illustrated in FIGURE 3A, where the zipper is open and the teeth of the zipper are placed on the basted seam line and then pinned as instructed. The other method is to keep the zipper closed with the edge of the zipper as close to the basted seam line as possible. See FIGURE 3B. For very thin zippers, the closed zipper may be used, but if the zipper is on the heavy side, the open zipper method is better.

The first line of stitching the zipper to the seam line is a machine basting. This may be done by using a zipper foot on the machine

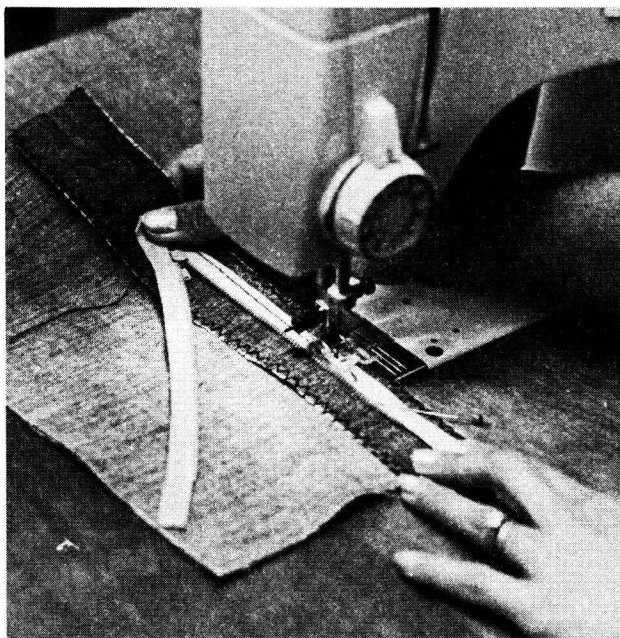


FIGURE 3A

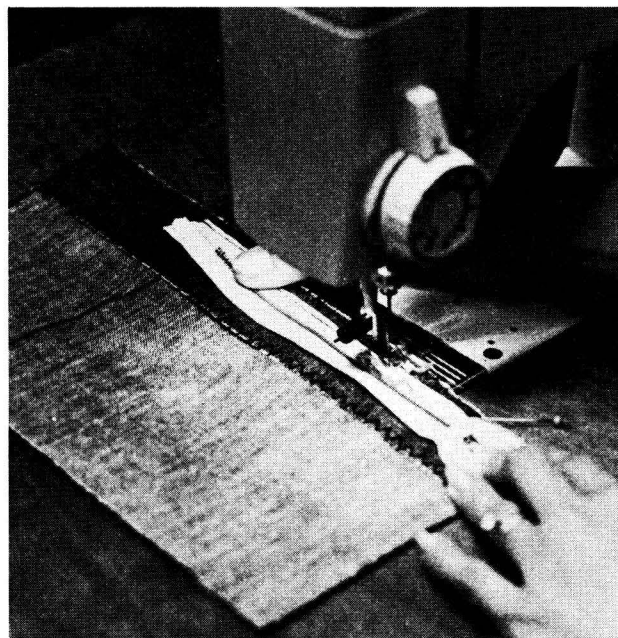


FIGURE 3B

or your regular presser foot. See Figures 3A and 3B. The regular presser foot of a zig-zag machine is wider so swing the needle over to the left side. This makes it possible to stitch on the tape of the zipper to a better advantage. When using the zipper foot avoid stitching too close to the teeth allowing material or the thread to get into the teeth.

The next step is to stitch with regular stitches after you have turned the zipper down next to machine with the seam allowance under. See FIGURE 4. The fold of the seam allowance must be left in the zipper at all times and this fold should come near the zip-

per but not so close that the material will hang into the zipper. In all of the stitching of the zipper to the seam line, hold the zipper taut with the fabric to prevent puckering.

All of the lapped seam zippers may be done in the same direction. That is, start stitching from the bottom of the zipper having the large part of the garment on the lefthand side of the machine. The basting of the zipper and the second line of stitching with regular stitches can be done in the same direction and will allow the fabric to remain on the machine with little handling and prevent the material from getting tired looking.

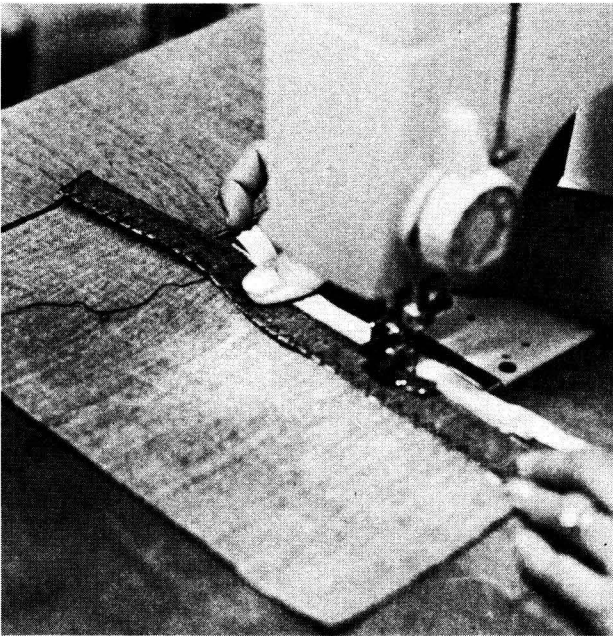


FIGURE 4

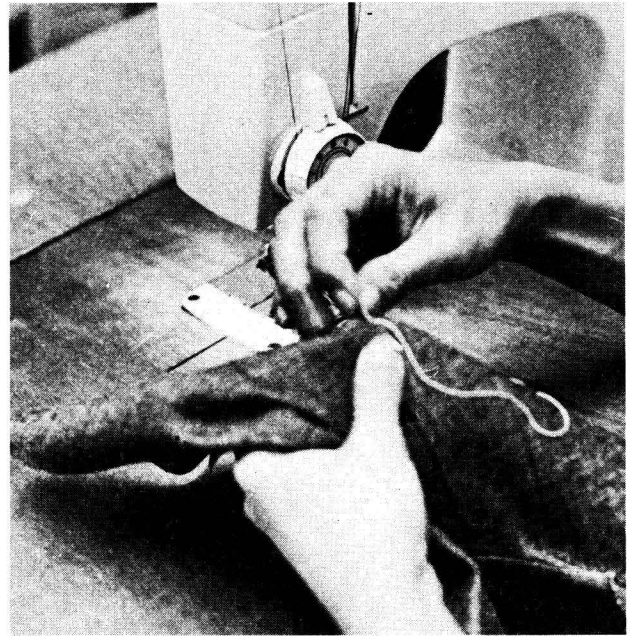


FIGURE 5

FINISHING--MACHINE OR HAND

Many of the zippers are stitched on the right side by machine or stitched from the underneath side by machine using the blind-hem method. Adjust machine so that a very small amount of material is caught. Top layer should be caught $\frac{3}{8}$ - to $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch apart. Whichever way this is done, care must be taken so that the pleat in the seam line remains as a pleat and not stretched over. If it is, then the second line of stitching on the zipper with regular stitches will show when the zipper is completed. The most professional and custom look to a zipper can be accomplished by using a hand-stitch method. Use a single thread with a fine needle (No. 9 or 10) and make a small back stitch. See FIGURE 5. This can be done quickly and it will be less conspicuous than any machine stitching. Refrain from pulling the thread tight and making dimples in the material. If the material has a design on it, the design may be followed as far as color is concerned. Even if you use

several colors of thread in the length of the zipper the stitching will be less conspicuous. The zipper will hold with this hand stitching of a single thread provided the garment is properly fitted and one isn't stretching the garment tightly over the body. To remove the basting that was put in the garment on the fitted seam line, clip the basted stitches before the zipper is inserted so that it will be easy to pull out short sections of the thread.

The crossing at the bottom of the seam line or the lap is not necessary as it draws more attention to the end of the zipper than if there is just a parallel line coming from the bottom of the zipper straight up to the back of the neck or wherever the zipper may be placed. If it is possible to insert a zipper down the back of a dress before it is joined to the front part of the dress it will be easier to handle. The job is quicker and there is less handling of the total garment.

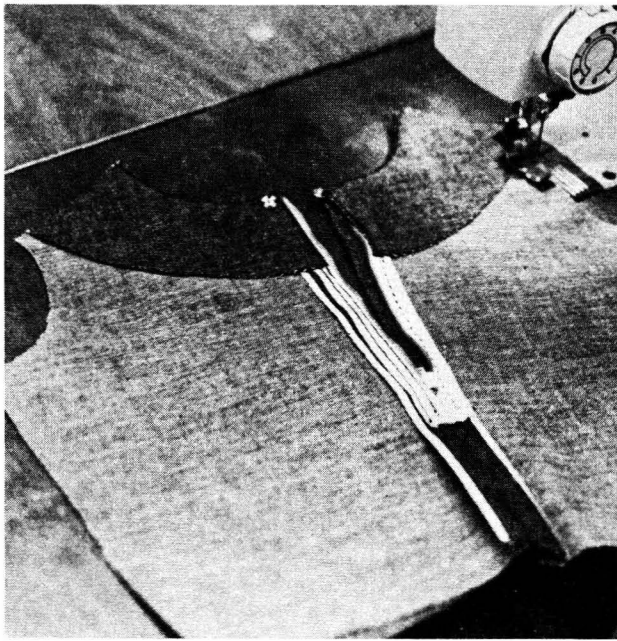


FIGURE 6

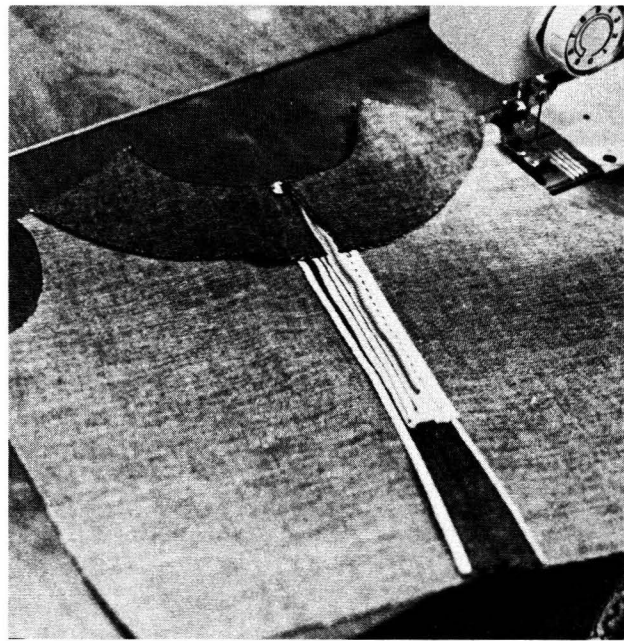


FIGURE 7

ZIPPERED NECKLINE FINISH

The facing at a neckline may be put on before or after the zipper has been inserted, depending on the unit construction of your garment. The seam allowance at the neckline should be trimmed very closely at the zipper lap after the understitching of the neckline so that there is no extra bulk.

The zipper side that has the understitching may be finished as follows: Fold facing to the left of the zipper neatly down and in line with the regular stitching that has already been put in on the zipper side. See FIGURE 6. Another line of machine stitching may be made

or this facing may be sewed by hand on the wrong side of the zipper. The machine stitching is easier and will hold better than hand stitching. The lapped part of the seam over the right side of the zipper may be finished with a diagonal line from the top of the neckline to the tape of the zipper as illustrated in FIGURE 6. The diagonal line of facing should be machine stitched near the edge and stitch over the line of understitching at the neckline for a half to three-fourths of an inch--this will insure the facing remaining the same size. The lower part of diagonal line is hand stitched to zipper tape.

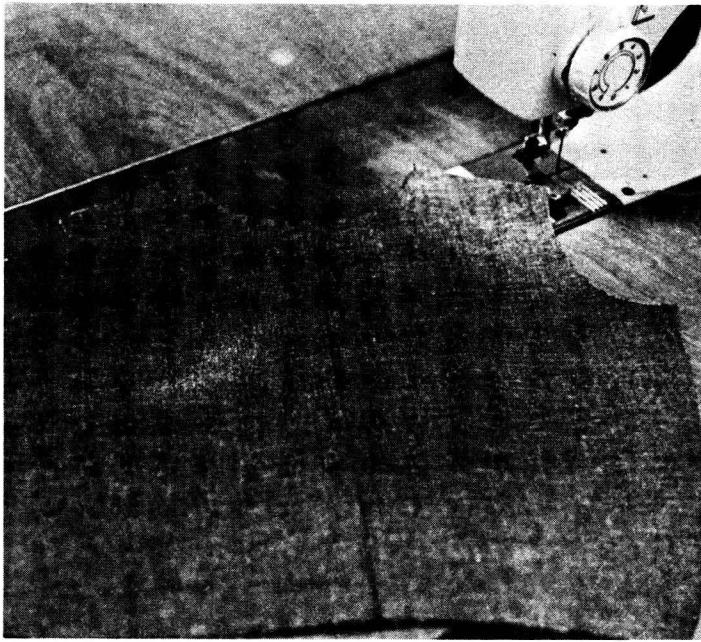


FIGURE 8

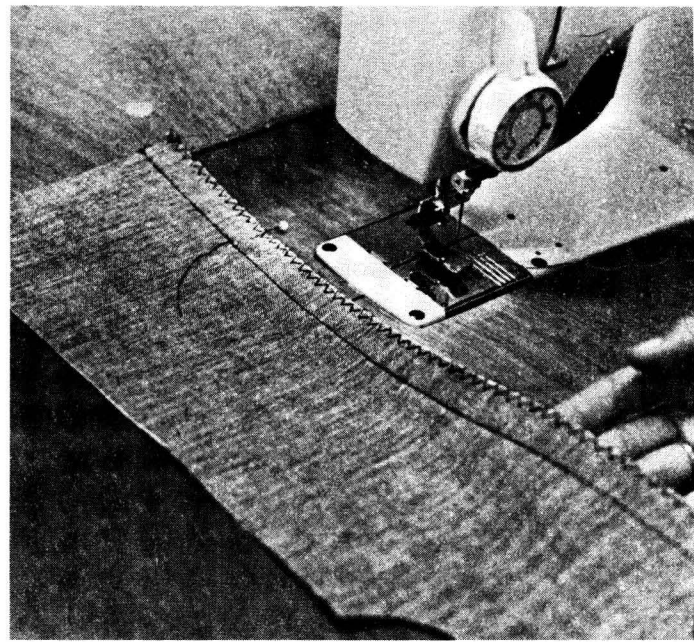


FIGURE 9

TOP FASTENERS

Hooks and eyes are frequently used at the top of the zipper closing to keep it together but there is a great chance that the hook will catch the material and make it wear out very quickly and it will show fraying after just a few uses. Try using a snap at the top of the closing: Place the zipper in the lap seam as it is to be fitted, that is, the lap seam over the machine stitched part, and then place the ball part of the snap near the top. See FIGURE 6. The snap on the left side of the zipper just escapes the fold of the facing from the lapped side. Sew the ball part of the snap down securely by all four holes in the snap. To place the socket part of the snap in the correct place on the right side of zipper, snap it together

over the ball part just as if you were snapping it at any time, then sew two holes of the snap to the bias line. See FIGURE 6. The needle can be run between the two pieces of the snap to get the two holes sewn on in place with one or two stitches, then unsnap and secure the socket part of the snap to the edge. The snap will only be sewn on with half of the openings. The snap will hang off the edge and will hold the top of the zipper in place better than a hook and eye.

FIGURE 7 shows the closed zipper from the wrong side. FIGURE 8 shows the smooth look from the right side.

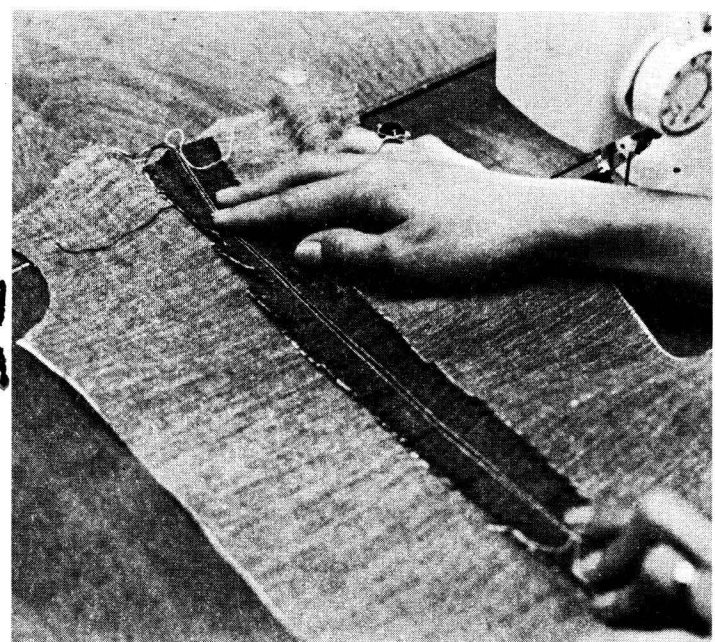


FIGURE 10

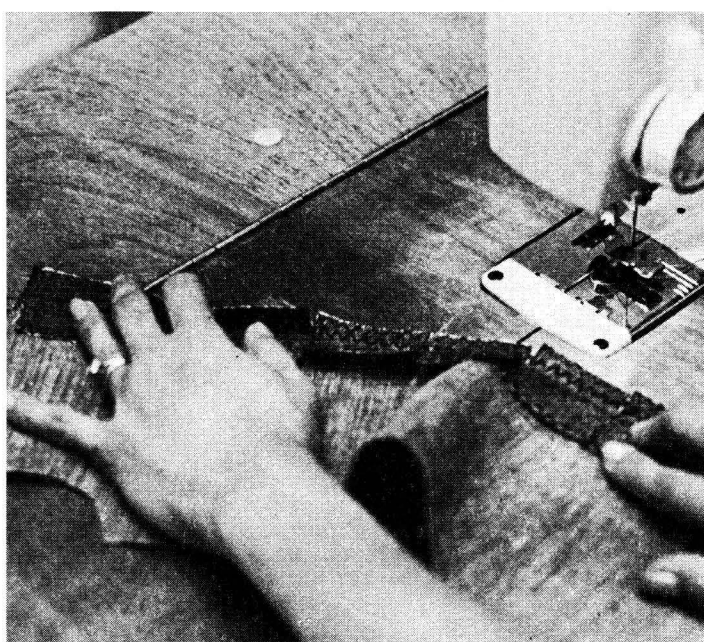


FIGURE 11

ZIPPERS IN A CURVE SEAM

Close the bottom seam with the regular stitches according to the material being sewn. Backstitch at the bottom of the zipper. If the bottom seam of the skirt is on a bias line and is a synthetic material, start stitching at the pin, backstitch, and then stitch downward to the hemline. This will prevent seam puckering. Baste by machine from the pin to the neckline, as shown in FIGURE 9. Open the seam and stitch on the seam allowance very near the basted line on both sides with regular stitches as shown in FIGURE 10. Slash the curved seam almost to the stitched line. See FIGURE 10. Slash more often in the greater curve, which is usually near the waistline.

As in FIGURE 11, note that the overlapped seam has been zig-zagged with the slashes opened at the time of zig-zagging. In FIGURE 11, note that you may reinforce the lapped side by making a second line of zig-zag (or plain) stitching and having the slashes opened as you stitch over them. This will make the seam curve underneath and flat when finished. The zipper may be inserted now in exactly the same way as the one illustrated previously in FIGURES 2 through 8.

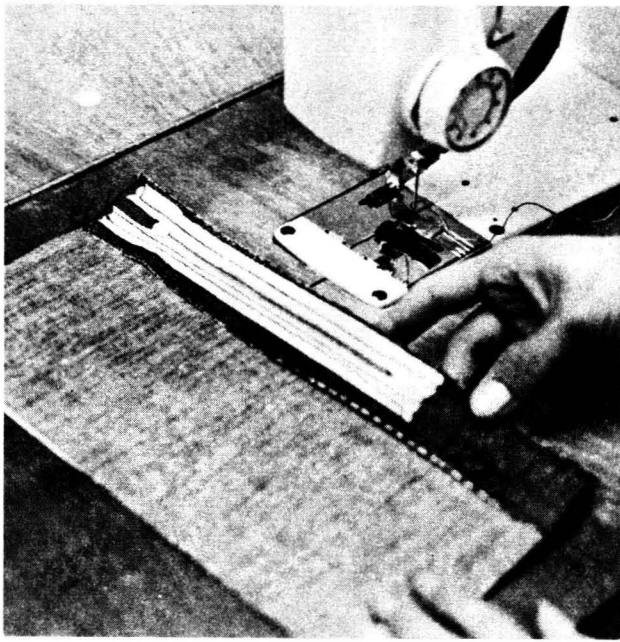


FIGURE 12

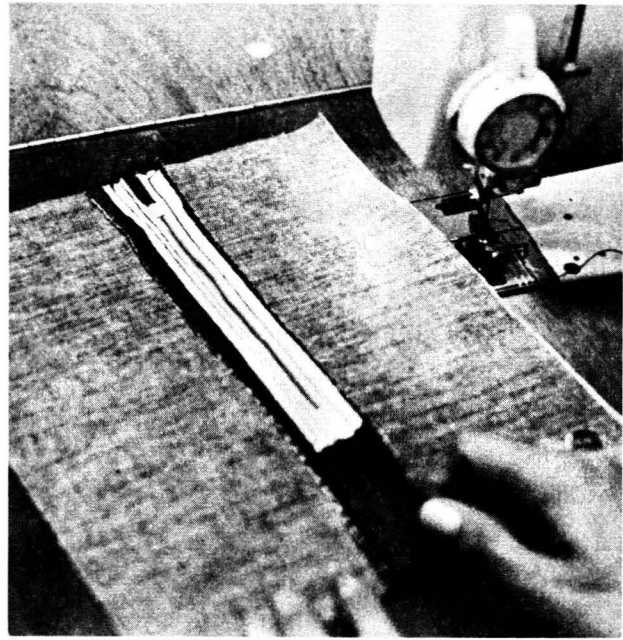


FIGURE 13

NEW ZIPPER MATERIALS

A bonding material that is coming on the market soon may help revolutionize the insertion of zippers--at least it is a new way of putting in a zipper without any outside stitching. At present, the recommendation would be to use this method in a tent-style dress or one that is not tightly fitted so that the zipper does not have the pull on it that is given some zippers. It may be necessary to use a tiny backstitch on this zipper with stitches an inch apart so one may feel a little more secure if the dress is slightly fitted. This may be a way of finishing a blouse or a dress of sequins or beads or very fancy material, where you want the zipper to be as inconspicuous as possible. Be sure to read the directions on how to use the "Wonder Under"* and follow these directions on whether a dry or a steam iron is used. The amount of temperature of the iron and the length of time that the iron is held on the material are also important. A piece of cheesecloth slightly damp on the top of the zipper would keep the material from becoming shiny. Insert your zipper for this method by following the directions for FIGURES 1, 2, 3, and 4.

* A bonding material made by Pellon Corporation.

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Zippers

ERRATA

On page 9, second column, first sentence, the figure referred to should be

FIGURE 13, not FIGURE 4.

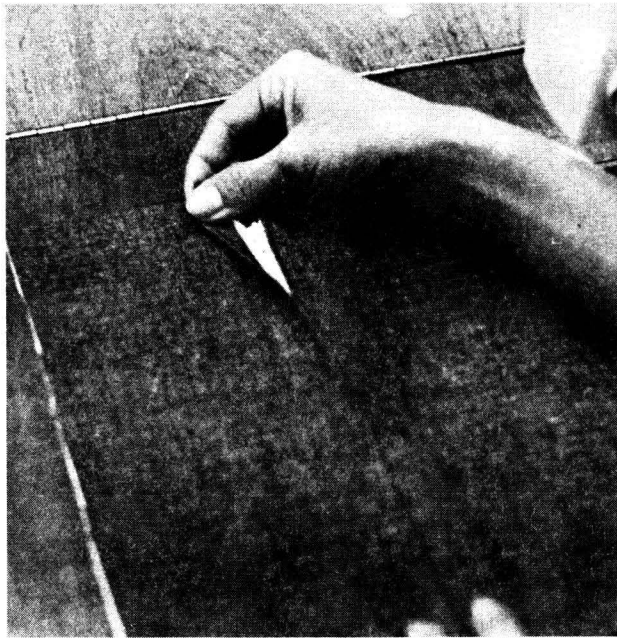


FIGURE 14

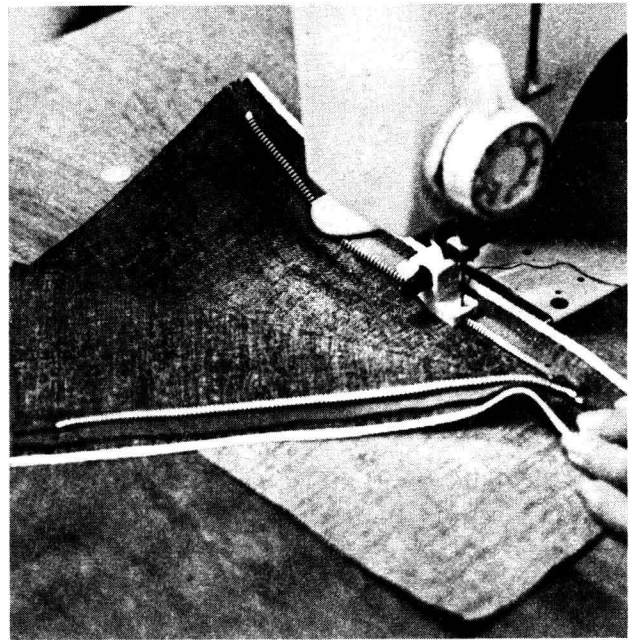


FIGURE 15

Flatten the zipper on the backside of the garment as in FIGURE 12 and stitch the other side of the zipper down to the seam line, being careful not to pull the zipper and making it possible for the little pleat at the bottom part of the first line of stitching to remain pleated. This line of stitching may be done with the zipper foot since it is already on your machine from the previous stitching. Remove the basting line at this time because if it is not removed before the "Wonder Under" is used it would be next to impossible to remove the basting and open the zipper.

In FIGURE 4 as the zipper and garment is flat and the basted line is removed, place the "Wonder Under" between the seam line and the garment where the last line of stitching was made. (Left side in FIGURE 13 which is on the lapped side of the zipper.) Turn the garment over so that you may now work on the right side. Carefully press the zipper down flat, making sure that the zipper is covered with the overlapped seam.

In FIGURE 14, the zipper is inserted in a lapped seam with no top stitching.

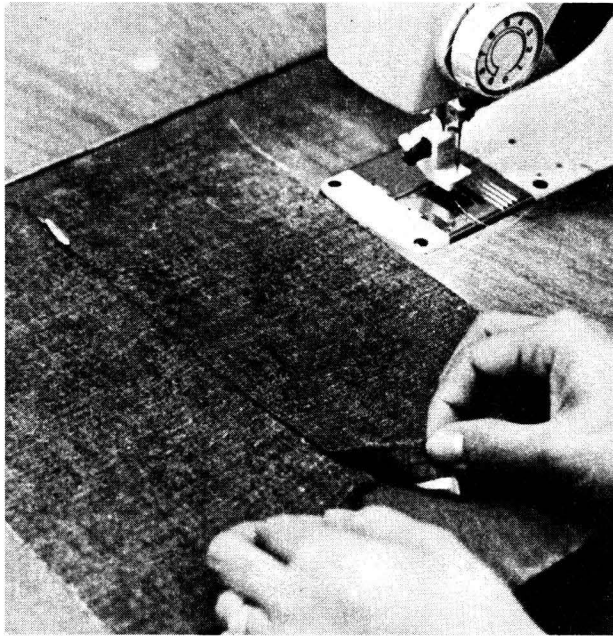


FIGURE 16

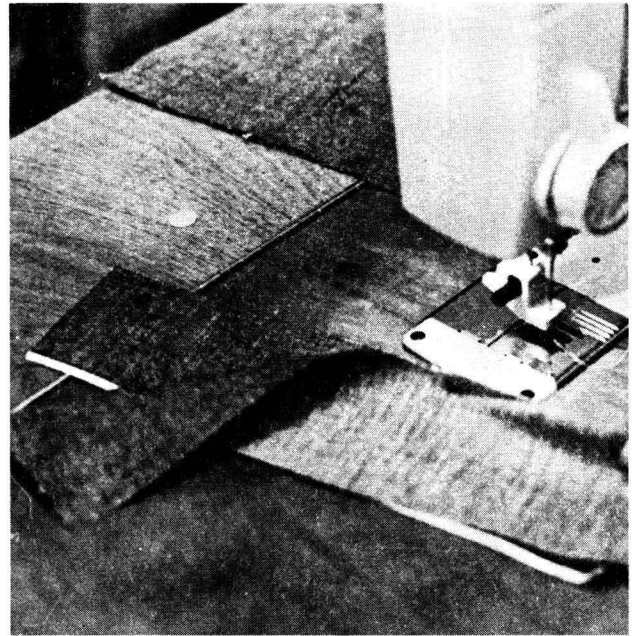


FIGURE 17

Another type of zipper that is coming back on the market may be inserted with only two lines of machine stitching. The metal part of this zipper rolls back on the wrong side of the tape. In order to sew this zipper in and get a neat closing, it is better to use the specially designed presser foot that stitches with the zipper teeth in the groove of the presser foot.

In FIGURE 15, the zipper is being stitched on the seam line and it is stitched from the top down. Both sides of the zipper are stitched on the garment and then the bottom seam is closed. This step is in reverse of the way other zippers are inserted. Note in FIGURE 16 that the zipper does not show, there is no top stitching, and at the bottom the seam is ready to be sewn together.

This zipper may be sewn in if care is taken in adjusting the zipper foot so that it will be very close to the teeth part of the zipper and you must manipulate the teeth of the zipper out flat as you are stitching.

These zippers are not in plentiful supply at the present time but may be eventually, so that is why we have inserted these directions.

ZIPPERS IN DARTS

Occasionally, a zipper must be inserted in a skirt where there is no seam. In order to get a seam allowance that may be used on the zipper, a dart may be made at the bottom of the zipper closing. Make the dart and backstitch the top of it from $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch deep and stitch it down in a sloping line so that it does not give a bulge at the end, as in FIGURE 17. Baste narrow seam as in FIGURE 1. The seam on the side where it is to be stitched on the zipper first, as in FIGURE 2, may not need widening. The seam allowance that is to be used for the overlap may be extended by placing a selvage edge of fabric on narrow seam or by using a seam tape which has been preshrunk. It is advisable to avoid using a raw edge on top of the raw edge, making the seam heavy. The zipper may now be inserted the same as in the first directions.

NOTES:

In all the illustrations of this circular you can see that the seam allowances are beyond the zipper's edge. If the seams of the garment are cut wider in the beginning, the seams are going to be less bulky because the seams do not all end at the same place.

The seams are blended from the very beginning. A one-inch seam allowance wherever a zipper is to be applied is an advantage.

A suggestion to help keep the zipper and seam from getting caught is to fasten the seam down at the waistline where there is a waist and a skirt or if the garment is backed.

When putting in a side zipper where a waist and skirt is joined (the waistline is a curved seam) you may find that a fitted seam will make your zipper facing lie flat. A fitted seam is made by stitching the regular seam line allowance on the waist and the skirt as far as the fitted line or the seam line of the zipper and then narrowing the seam from that point to the cut edge.

A sticky tape is on the market that will aid in getting the zipper placed on seam allowance before the first stitching. This saves pinning but one must be very careful not to get material fuller than zipper, causing a puckered line.

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS
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